

REMARKS

The examiner has required restriction to the invention of Group I (claims 1-18) or to the invention of Group II (claims 19-20). Applicants confirm the prior oral election of Group I for prosecution on the merits. This election was made without traverse.

Claims 2, 10, 13 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The examiner urges that the grammar of Claims 2 and 13 is indefinite and that claim 13 is duplicative of claim 2. The examiner further urges that claims 10 and 17 should be written in Markush format and that claim 13 is de facto a duplicate of claim 2.

Claims 1, 2, 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Mudge (U.S. Patent No. 4,692,366). Claims 3-10, 12 and 14-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Mudge (U.S. Patent No. 4,692,366) alone or in view of Murphy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,692,366).

Claims 1-11 have been canceled. Claims 12, 13, 14 and 17 have been amended. Support may be found on page 5, lines 26-29 and page 6, lines 24-27 and the claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Applicants submit that the foregoing amendment overcomes the examiner's Section 112 rejection. While claim 17 is written in the alternative format, they have been rewritten in Markush form as suggested by the examiner.

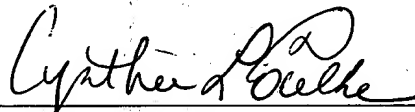
Claims 12-18 and 21-22 are pending.

The claimed subject matter is neither anticipated nor obvious over the disclosure of Mudge. Murphy adds nothing to the disclosure of Mudge so as to render the claims obvious. There is no disclosure in either reference, alone or combined, which would suggest to the skilled

artisan that the a foamed adhesive used by applicants can be use to securely bond together a wood composite material to a high pressure laminate. Indeed, the foamed adhesives of Murphy are described as being useful to bond felt backed or foamed backed surface coverings to a substrate. There is no disclosure of suggestion that a foamed adhesive comprising a polyvinyl acetate as claimed by applicants be used to bond together a wood composite material to a high pressure laminate in the manufacture of articles such as countertops.

Favorable reconsideration and the withdrawal of the Section 112, second paragraph, Section 102 (b) and Section 103 (a) rejections is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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April 24, 2003

Version of amended claim showing changes made

Claim 12 (amended). An [The] article of manufacture comprising [claim 11 which comprises] a wood composite and a high pressure laminate, wherein the wood composite is boned to the high pressure laminate using a [said] foamed adhesive comprising at least one polyvinyl acetate emulsion.

adhesive composition, B-K

Claim 13 (amended). The article of claim [1] 12 where the foamed adhesive is foamed to from about 20 to about 60% [weight per] by volume.

Claim 14 (amended). The article of claim [11] 12 wherein the foamed adhesive comprises [at least one polyvinyl acetate] a blend of at least two polyvinyl acetates.

Claim 17 (amended). The article of claim 16 wherein the foamed adhesive further comprising an additive selected from the group consisting of a surface active agent, a defoamer, a preservative [or] and a UV indicator.

Claim 21 (new). The article of claim 14 wherein the foamed adhesive comprise at least one polyvinyl acetate prepared by batch polymerization and at least one polyvinyl acetate prepared by continuous polymerization.

p-by-p

Claim 22 (new). The article of claim 12 wherein the foamed adhesive comprises from about 55 to about 85% of said at least one polyvinyl acetate and from about 5 to about 20% of a filler.